

In the Claims:

1. A method for storing critical data on a hard drive, comprising:
identifying critical data, the critical data likely to be requested upon the occurrence of a critical event;
storing critical data in a FLASH memory on the hard drive;
detecting the occurrence of a critical event; and
retrieving the critical data from the FLASH memory
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing critical data includes:
compressing the critical data; and
storing the compressed critical data in the FLASH memory on the hard drive.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the critical event is power-on of the drive.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the critical data is data associated with host boot-up.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
loading the critical data into cache;
changing the value of the critical data in cache; and
changing the value of the critical data stored in the FLASH memory to correspond to the critical data stored in cache.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing the critical data retrieved from the FLASH to a host device.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the FLASH memory includes hard drive code.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the FLASH memory includes a first FLASH memory and a second FLASH memory, the first FLASH memory containing hard drive code, the second FLASH memory containing critical data and no hard drive code.
9. A method for configuring an electronic device, comprising:
providing a printed circuit board, the printed circuit board including a plurality of FLASH ports, each of the plurality of FLASH ports adapted to communicatively receive a FLASH integrated circuit; and
providing a processor communicatively coupled to the printed circuit board, the processor configured to:
detect if more than one of the plurality of FLASH ports is connected to a FLASH integrated circuit; and
for a plurality of detected FLASH integrated circuits, load at least one FLASH integrated circuit with critical data.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein each of the plurality of FLASH integrated circuits receives common data lines, a common clock, and a separate enable signal.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein the critical data is compressed.

12. A method for storing critical data on a hard drive, comprising:
 - detecting a low power state event;
 - retrieving a critical data from the DRAM;
 - storing the critical data in a FLASH memory on the hard drive; and
 - powering down the DRAM.
13. The method of 12, wherein storing the critical data further includes:
 - storing the critical data in FLASH memory; and
 - entering write data into a log, the write data indicating that critical data was read from the DRAM and written to the FLASH memory.
14. The method of claim 13 further including:
 - transitioning the hard drive to a low power state.
15. The method of claim 13 further including:
 - transitioning the hard drive to a power off state.
16. The method of claim 13 further including:
 - identifying the critical data, the critical data stored on DRAM in the hard drive.